ALL ABOUT MEDIEVAL SWORDS



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The **medieval sword** was the weapon of choice during the Middles Ages. Known also as the Medieval Era, this period covered the years between the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, 476 to 1450 A.D. Battles were fought by knights wearing heavy armor and using swords and lances. It needs skill and strength to use a sword and during those times, not anybody can just wield one. It would take

several years of training before a squire could become a knight; earn his place in battle and given his own sword, the first among many.

The fall of the Roman Empire saw the emergence of the medieval swords, which were more a derivative of the Viking swords rather than the Roman swords spatha. The Viking raiders were quick to set a trend with their swords and **Viking helmets** at that time. The swords were heavier, longer and more lethal than the

Roman gladius or spatha. The medieval swords continued to evolve and the Middle Ages produced different medieval swords – Broadsword, Falchion, Longsword, Greatsword and the Scimitar.



The Broadsword is the earliest known sword depicting the medieval period. It is a two-edge sword weighing about 3 to 5 pounds, measuring 2 to 3 inches in width and 30 to 45 inches in length.

Most medieval Knights who went on Crusades preferred the Medieval Falchion swords. Similar to the Scimitar's curved blade used by the Saracens in the Holy Land, the Falchion came with a heavy single edge blade. The Longswords also known as the Hand and a Half swords or the Bastardswords are longer with length



going from 44 to 55 inches. The longest of all medieval swords are the Greatswords. These were two-handed swords with 50 to 72 inches blade length plus 18 to 21 inches of handle. It was the heaviest **medieval sword** as well at 6 to 10 pounds.

The **medieval sword** has two main parts – the hilt and the blade. The hilt has three main components – pommel, grip and the crossbar or cross-guard.

The pommel is a small round metal on the end of the hilt that provides a sort of counterbalance for the blade and helps increase maneuverability.

The grip or handle is where swords are held. The cross-guard served two purposes – as a hand shield and for added balance. When it comes to the blade, it is straight and typically wider at the base. It

is either single-edged or double-edged and featured a central groove or fuller that made the sword lighter and stronger.



The strength of the sword depends on how it was forged. Strip welding is a

technique used by the Vikings where metals are bundled, bended and hammered together several times to make it tougher and stronger.

As medieval Knights favored the use of the cutting swords of the Vikings rather than those of the Romans, they too preferred the **Viking helmets** instead of the Roman helmets. The helmets evolved with the **medieval swords** to make knights and warriors more impregnable to their opponents. The medieval swords were effective for cutting and slicing as well as

thrusting and piercing. Understanding the sword was important to enable the Knights to use it effectively. They had to undergo extensive training involving strategic maneuvers and strokes to disengage enemies. It took most of their time to become experts. Training with the sword became a part of medieval life as it means life and death during those times.



MEDIEVAL SWORDS: PAST AND PRESENT

Medieval swords are known to many people around the world. As the swords are great part of the history, medieval swords are among the kinds that never fail to bring back the old times in the past. It is undeniable that all throughout the whole middle age, the swords had played the biggest part of people's lives as battle then was left and right. Almost everyone had one.

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In the modern times that we live in today, swords which are made from authentic medieval fighting weapons still have the same quality as before. Unlike centuries ago, you do not really have to be in the upper class just to have a weapon that is considered to be effective, useful, well made, easy to handle and beautiful.

People choose **medieval swords** from its different kinds. Those kinds serve varied purposes as well. There are medieval swords which are generally

based on models in the history which are then made specifically for one army or certain geographical region. Like for instance, you may have English swords that were used by the knights or rather broadswords or Celtic swords from Germany.



History enthusiasts along with antique collectors truly find sword made from its real model amazing great part of their collection. These swords are capable of bringing beauty to the wall of a house and wonderful displays on a rack.

Needless to say, medieval times are still as popular as before for the new generation today. Festivals depicting Middle Ages along with numerous reenactments are still being presented to the young people these days. These plays and festivals always include sword fights. Actually, it is

something that will never be out of sight as swords are important equipment of all time.

There are swords styled in the medieval way and made ideal for some occasions. In any festivals, swords complete the physical appearance of people attending it. It is made with different designs to choose from.

Remembering the Middle Ages can be done through this way – carrying fighting weapons along with national clothes of certain country. As reenactment is an

important part in the tradition, being part of it requires you to have medieval swords which are also battle-ready in order to meet up safety requirements along with the assurance of not getting damaged easily.

Swords can also be chosen based on a personality of the person buying it. It is made to specifically to suit a person.



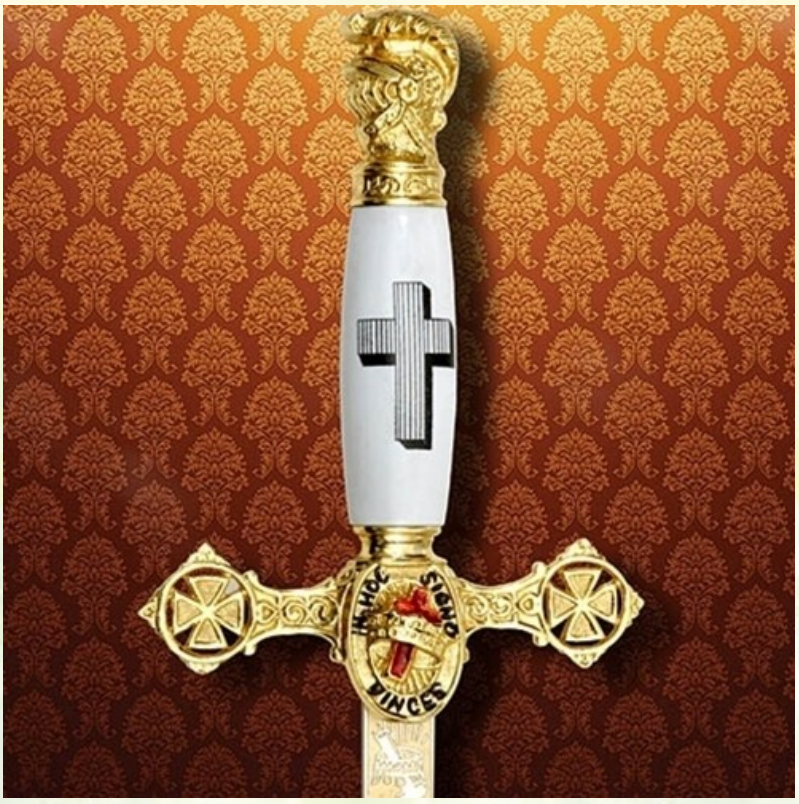
Swords made from great high quality materials with only one hand and made from designs in the medieval times are ideal for people who are generally strong and experienced in using swords. On the other hand, inexperienced, younger and older people may choose to have swords that are generally light and short with two hands for easy usage. Handle of the swords is an important consideration as it should be made from high quality materials so as to be sure it will not have the chance to slip out of the hands during

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